

4. The Assessment Process for Assets at Risk

The goal of the Siskiyou Fire Plan is to protect the wide range of public and private assets in the County from the damaging affects of wildfire. The assets addressed in the plan are

- citizen and firefighter safety
- watersheds and water
- timber
- wildlife and habitat
- rural communities
- unique areas (scenic, cultural and historic),
- recreation
- range
- structures
- air quality

There are 13 individual components identified as raw data for the above assets.

Though there is currently no method for validation and correction of raw data pertaining to assets at risk, the unit recognizes that much of the raw data is valuable, particularly the housing and timber layers. Ongoing studies continue to try to define a practical methodology for submitting corrections to the data layers.

To identify high-value areas of assets at risk, Unit staff conducted meetings both internal and external. The 13 assets were ranked according to "local" importance, or what the perceived value is to those who live in the County. Housing, Timber and Infrastructure were ranked highest. Maps of these asset locations were evaluated to determine the areas of highest combined asset value. The areas identified were in agreement with historically targeted areas.

The process of identifying assets at risk also helps to identify who benefits from those assets. It is a premise of the California Fire Plan, (on which the local plan is structured), that those who benefit from the protection of an asset should pay for that protection. Fire protection resources are limited, primarily by budget constraints. Therefore, these resources should be allocated based on the magnitude of the assets. The assets are ranked high, medium and low as to their susceptibility to wildfire.

(For more information regarding the evaluation of asset susceptibility, refer to the California Fire Plan)

<http://www.fire.ca.gov/FireEmergencyResponse/FirePlan/Fireplan.asp>